

# PLANNING CHANGE OF RULES TO END BABE RUTH'S SUSPENSION

## Baseball Law's Amendment Gives Judge Landis Chance To Modify His Decision

Owners of Yanks Off to Washington Ready for Big Doings.

By Bozeman Bulger.

THE two Yank Colonels are in Washington to-day ready to trade, buy or sell players, or change the rules of the American League, and let it go at that.

"We don't have to go out and beg for an outfielder to take the place of Ruth or Meusel," said Col. Huston, as he climbed on the train last night, "and you can bet that we are not going to sacrifice a pitcher or any other valuable man to do it. We need pitchers lots worse than we do outfielders, despite all talk to the contrary. We are able to stand pat on what we've got and let the dice roll."

"If you'll remember," he added, and Col. Ruppert nodded approval, "we started the season last spring with one of the worst outfielders in the world. The only good man we had was Ruth and he wasn't at top form. Just the same, the pitchers carried us along until we got straightened out and we won the pennant. Isn't that so?"

It was so.

The Colonel didn't say so in words, but he has a lingering hope that Ruth and Meusel will be right on the job at the beginning of the season. He feels that it would be a terrible honor to sacrifice a pitcher to get a temporary outfielder and then have Ruth and Meusel show up. That accounts for the uncertainty over getting Veatch or Strunk.

Here's what's going to happen unless all plans go awry:

A resolution will be offered recommending to Judge Landis the advisability of amending the obsolete rule that prevented a member of a championship club from barnstorming. As a matter of fact, it will be amended, but part of the rule was never intended to be construed literally. Its original object was to prevent championship clubs from barnstorming as a whole and humbugging the public.

This rule will also be amended by the National League at the meeting next week. At least that is a part of the present plan.

Then, if Judge Landis feels that it was never the sense of that league to prevent ballplayers from appearing individually on barnstorming or exhibition tours, he can end the punishment of Ruth, Meusel and Pincus. The Colonels are not fatter than this move, though they are supporting it. It comes from other clubs, all of whom will suffer through the continued punishment of Ruth. This will be made clear to the Judge.

Behind this a very strong argument has been prepared to show that Ruth and Meusel are more severely punished than many other players have been for the same crime in the past. They were not the first to violate the barnstorming law, you know.

It has been the understanding among ballplayers for several years that such a violation was punished by a \$100 fine. It was under that understanding that the New York players broke the rule. This has never been brought out before, because the league owners felt a little hesitancy in making such explanations to the

Judge, whom they are determined to support.

The Boston Red Sox went out as a club in violation of the barnstorming provision when they were world's champions. Each player was fined \$100. The only other punishment meted out by the National Commission was the withholding of their buttons, emblematic of the championship.

The Athletics did the same thing, going to Cuba. In their case nothing was done other than a slight fine and a reprimand. Any number of cases could be cited. They will be cited. Feeling that the punishment would be the usual hundred-dollar fine Ruth, Meusel and Pincus thought that cheap enough. That's all there is to it. Had they thought they were to be regarded as any different from previous violators they might have acted differently.

In stopping their tour these players lost a lot of money. They had been booked to appear at Kansas City during the meeting of the American League and Ruth and Meusel were to be guaranteed \$10,000.

When the Colonels appealed to them on the grounds that they were endangering the chances of the team and that their actions were to be regarded more seriously than that of previous violators, they promptly withdrew. The men who had them under contract lost three thousand dollars, which was made good.

Now, that is the case that will be presented to Judge Landis when the resolution has been passed amending the old rule. The Judge has been tied hand and foot because the law started him in the face. With it out of the way he will probably look at the matter in a different way. Though a strict disciplinarian, the Judge is eminently fair and generous. There is nothing vindictive in his punishment of the players. Simply, he has been enforcing the baseball law as it appeared on the books.

If the club owners admit that they made a mistake in keeping such a law on the books the Judge can fit the punishment of these players to agree with such admission.

There you have the matter in a nutshell. It may explain why the Colonels are not the least excited about making a trade. Personally I don't think they are going to make one at all.

"But if they show us a good man and show us a way that we can acquire him without weakening our outfit, we'll trade with 'em in a minute," said Col. Huston last night.

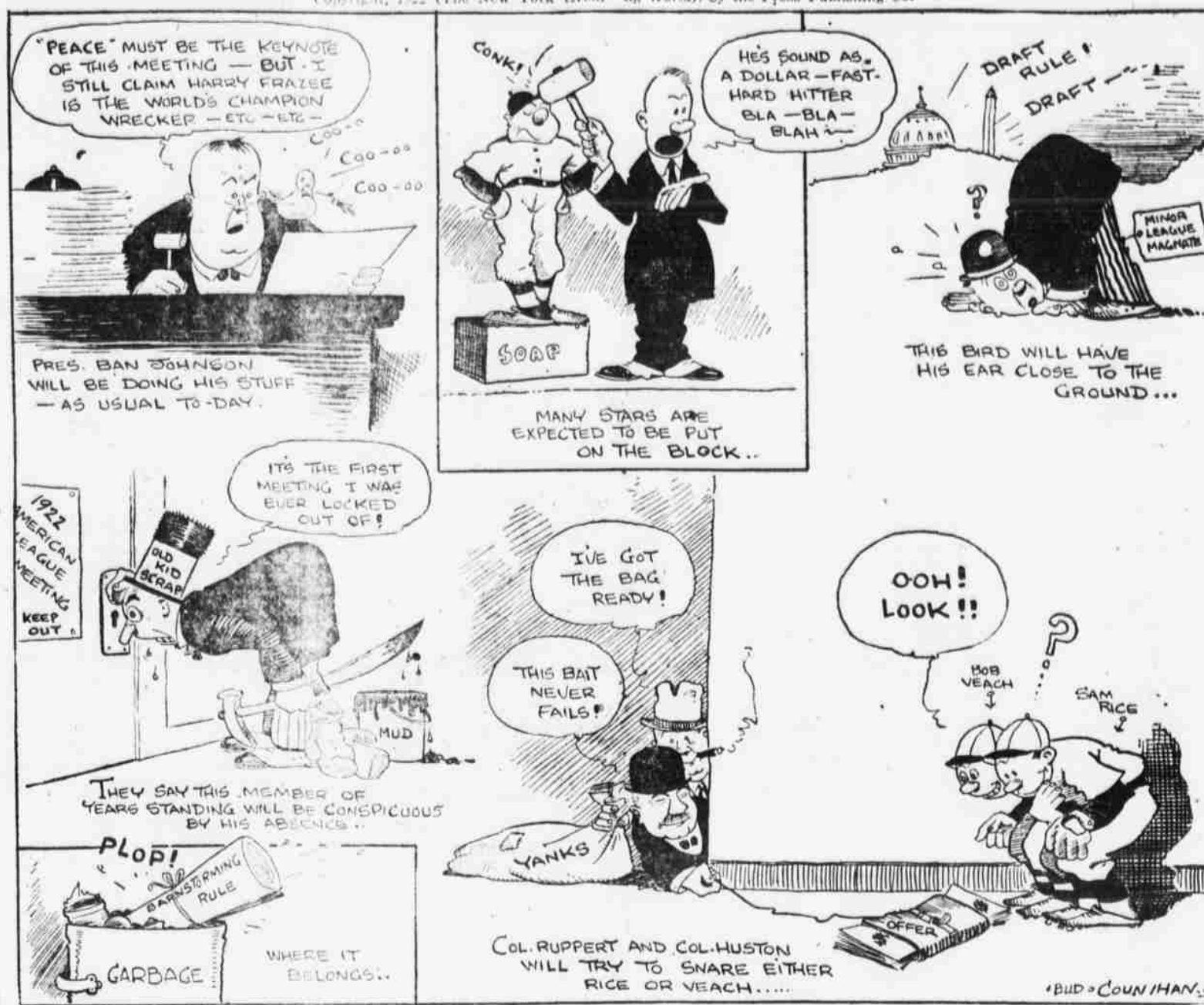
"Yes," added Col. Ruppert, "we are going to have a conference with Navin and Cobb and with old Gleason, but we are going into the power open-minded. Don't think we are in a hole and have got to give up something. Not on your life. We can get along without an extra outfielder just as well as any of them, whether Ruth and Meusel show up or not."

Harvard Looks to Be Sure Winner of Squash Title.

With only one more match to play, indications are that the Harvard Club, which is leading the Class B Metropolitan Squash Tennis League, will finish the season undefeated. The Crimson request welders maintained the fast pace they have set since the tournament started by trouncing the Princeton club players, 5 to 1, yesterday afternoon.

## AT WASHINGTON TO-DAY

By Bud Counihan



DE ORO-LAYTON MATCH FOR TITLE POSTPONED TILL FEB. 27-28-MARCH 1

200 Runners in L. I. Race

The three-cushion billiard match for the championship of the world between the present title holder, Johnny Layton, and Alfred De Oro, former champion, will start and finish at the clubhouse, Hempstead Avenue. The distance measures a little over six miles and the event is open to all registered athletes.

With entries from the leading distance men of the country already in, the annual road race of St. Mary's College, R. of C., Lynbrook, L. I., which was scheduled to begin at Milwaukee Feb. 16, has been postponed because of the letter's illness. The match will be held on Feb. 27 and 28 and March 1, Layton having consented to the postponement. The champion is still in the city and will remain here to witness the pocket billiards championship match between Ralph Greenleaf, present title holder, and former champion Tom Huston, at the Strand Billiard Academy Feb. 22, 23 and 24.

GRAVES TO HELP COACH NAVAL ACADEMY CREWS.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Feb. 8.—Richard Glendon, Naval Academy rowing coach, will be assisted this season by Eddie Graves, Captain and bow out, of the Academy crew which won the championship of the world in the Olympic contests of 1920 at Antwerp.

## Knights Play Brooklyn Five In Metropolitan League Game

Contest First Mid-Week One Played by New Organization.

Whether or not mid-week league basketball will be a success will be shown this evening when the Knights of St. Antony meet the Brooklyn Basketball Team in a Metropolitan League game. The contest is scheduled to be played on the Knights' court Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

In so far as competition is concerned the game should be a fast one. Both the Knights and Brooklyn teams are at present tied for second place in the league with a percentage of 500. The fives are evenly matched and as the players have rested since the strenuous contests of last Sunday, one of the best league games yet staged is looked for.

AMERICAN LEGION LEAGUE.

The close of the first month of the American Legion League finds three teams tied for first place. Teams representing the 71st-105th Infantry, Western Electric and Kiverdale Posts have a clear record of two wins against no defeats.

Every one of the matches played have been of the highest class. A noticeable feature of the games was the clean cut and sportsmanship manner in which they were played. This is proven by the fact that an average of but five fouls a game has been called.

Standing of the posts follows:

Post	W.	L.
71st-105th Inf.	2	0
West. Electric	2	0
Kiverdale	2	0
306th Inf.	1	1
104th Inf.	1	1

Two games are scheduled for this Saturday night when Tiger Post meets Lexington Post and Western Electric plays 306th Infantry. The contests will be played at Stuyvesant High School.

Although the Beckmans, Holmans, Meachams, Driscolls and all the big fellows are always breaking into print, one seldom hears of any of the stars on the smaller teams. Garland of the Ascension Aces, however, is one player who refuses to be overlooked. He has been playing in sensational form all season but reached top form last week. In a game against the St. Peter's Club, Staten Island, Garland scored 14 field baskets and 4 fouls. Saturday, playing for the Chippewas, Yonkers, he tallied 8 field goals against the Brooklyn Crownns, and Sunday he scored 8 field goals and

shot 9 consecutive fouls. Score was 74 points in three games is not bad at all, and Garland will find his service much in demand if he keeps up the good work.

The Parsons Big Five added another victory to its long string by defeating the Calumet Club of Long Island, 32 to 28. The Parsons are making a great record on out-of-town courts and Friday night travel to Hudson, N. Y., for a return game. On Saturday Willie Sanders takes his team to Otskill for a match against Company E.

Kickerbocker quintet, one of the leading teams of Massachusetts, is contemplating a trip to this city during the latter part of this month and early part of March. The team has defeated some of the best fives throughout the country and recently returned from a successful trip to Boston. Judging from its record the team is capable of giving the Brooklyn Knights, Alton Dwellers and other leading New York teams a hard battle. Managers interested can communicate with William J. Donovan, No. 12 Dulin Street, Chicopee, Mass.

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